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BOOK DEPARTMENT.

NOTES.

THE MACMILLAN COMPANY have just brought out a second edition of Professor Bastable's useful "Theory of International Trade,"* of which the first edition was published ten years ago. Within this period much attention has been given to problems of foreign trade, especially in connection with the policy of protection. Professor Bastable is unswerving in his devotion to free trade, but he gives somewhat more extended attention to the arguments on the other side in this than in the previous edition of his manual. Believing in the essential soundness of the Ricardian theory of international trade, a considerable portion of the first five of the ten chapters of his work is devoted to the explanation of that theory and a refutation of its critics. The "applications" alluded to in the title are contained in the last five chapters, which treat respectively of, "the influence of foreign trade on the internal distribution of wealth," "taxation for revenue in its effects on foreign trade," "the rationale of free trade," "arguments for protection—reasons for its prevalence," and the "conclusion." The latter "is a negative one," and is to the effect that, "governments in their dealings with foreign trade should be guided by the much-vilified maxim of *laissez faire*."

MR. LOUGH'S forcible presentation of the financial relations of England and Ireland† has been issued in a third revised and corrected edition. In the revision he has used much important material gathered by the royal commission on the financial relations between Great Britain and Ireland. The book is a strong statement, couched in temperate yet vigorous language, of the disadvantages which Ireland suffers in her present relations to the exchequer of the United Kingdom. While population and wealth have decayed during the century, taxation has increased and the *per capita* burden is greater than ever. The actual sums collected may appear small, but the proportion of taxable wealth taken by the state nearly exhausts the entire income of the people above the requirements of a

* *The Theory of International Trade, with Some of its Applications to Economic Policy.* By C. F. BASTABLE, M. A., LL. D. Second edition, revised. Pp. xii, 183. Price, \$1.25. London and New York: The Macmillan Co., 1897.

† *England's Wealth, Ireland's Poverty.* By THOMAS LOUGH, M. P., with ten colored diagrams. Pp. 223. Price, 1s. London: Downey & Co., 1897.

bare subsistence, so that the slightest breath of ill-fortune causes widespread want and destitution. For those who desire a knowledge of the latest phase which the Irish question has assumed, Mr. Lough's book offers a compact statement of the nature of the grievance, together with interesting suggestions of a remedy.

REV. CORTLAND MYERS, pastor of the Brooklyn Temple, has printed under the title "Midnight in a Great City"* the substance of some recent discourses on the moral degradation incident to modern urban life. The evils of tenement house life, the ruin of child life, the clouds in rich homes, the influences of the saloon, the low-grade theatres, gambling houses and houses of ill-fame are depicted in plain language and with a directness and power of illustration well fitted to arouse moral indignation, which is the main purpose of the book. Evils connected with the factory system and the mad rush for wealth at all cost and the partial rescue work of the hospitals and prisons, which gather in the physical and moral wrecks, come in for a share in the discussion. The author has made an honest effort to get at the real facts about which he talks, and, though much of his observation has been necessarily superficial for the purposes of the scientific study of the evils in question, he has gone far enough to avoid many of the exaggerations and mistakes of similar attempts to deal with these conditions for the purpose of arousing the moral conscience of the community. He has also wisely refrained from suggesting sweeping remedies for specific evils on the basis of hasty generalizations. His book will have accomplished its purpose if it arouses its readers to study some of its problems more deeply than its author has yet been able to do and to attack them with the true Christian's earnestness of purpose and love of righteousness.

IN "*La Sociologie. Par Auguste Comte*,"† M. Emile Rigolage has issued a condensation of the last three volumes of the "*Philosophie Positive*," which were included by Comte himself under the title "Social Physics." Comte originally intended that this subject should make up the fourth and last volume of his "Positive Philosophy," but the work of creating the new science of sociology, as he termed the task, grew in his hands until it required three volumes, and was then regarded by its author as only the prospectus

* *Midnight in a Great City*. By CORTLAND MYERS. Pp. 252. Price, \$1.00. New York: Merrill & Baker. 1896.

† *La Sociologie. Par Auguste Comte. Résumé par EMILE RIGOLAGE*. Pp. xv, 472. Price 7 fr. 50. Paris: Felix Alcan, 1897.

of what was to come. Rigolage published in 1881 a "Résumé of the Positive Philosophy" in two volumes which were later translated into German. The original French edition is now out of print and the present volume is practically a new edition of the second volume of the work published in 1881. The author does not think that the interest in the first part of the "Positive Philosophy" is sufficient to warrant a republication of the first volume of his "Résumé." The chief interest which English readers will take in the new volume consists in the significance of the publication as an index of the interest of French readers in this part of Comte's writings and their unwillingness to struggle with the heavy and monotonous style of Comte's own writing. Even his ardent followers see the necessity of meeting the demand for a more palatable if less accurate presentation of the positive philosophy. No condensation could be more satisfactory than the excellent piece of literary work done by Harriet Martineau. In her English translation, published originally in 1853, and of which we have had recently a new edition in three volumes in the Bohn Library, she reduced Comte's volumes to about one-fourth of their original bulk. Comte welcomed her book with profuse thanks, and one of his pupils rendered this English translation back into French. In its French form it has been widely used. Yet Comte, with all his peculiarities of style, was not simply verbose; he had some reason, some explanation or some attempt to guard against misconception hid away in all his long sentences. His followers will not admit the validity of criticisms based on the Martineau condensation or any other, and those who are able to read French would better consult and read the original six volumes by Comte, or such parts of them as are of present interest and value. His French followers would render an ultimately greater service to the scientific study of his philosophy, and the present interest in Comte would doubtless justify the undertaking, if they would issue a really good edition of the "Positive Philosophy" supplied with notes and a good introduction. An annotated edition of part of the work, but preserving the words of the original as far as it goes, is also a desideratum.

REVIEWS.

Die Finanzverhältnisse der Einzelstaaten der Nordamerikanischen Union. By Dr. ERNEST LUDLOW BOGART. Pp. xiii, 157. Jena: Gustav Fischer, 1897.

This adds another to the long list of economic studies made by American students under the direction of Professor Conrad. The title